



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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# **Hagman Makes Serving United States Veterans His Priority**

Ontario, CA- The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors today expanded medical services to veterans who have faced unacceptable and medically hazardous waiting times for essential medical care, or for whom a regular Veteran's Administration medical facility is simply inaccessible. Through innovative partnerships with private and public agencies, the County of San Bernardino will rescue veterans waiting for critical health procedures and specialty care that require immediate attention. The partnership is part of the Veteran Choice Program, and will make it possible for San Bernardino County Veterans to receive time-critical care from a non-Veteran's Administration health care provider in our communities.

"It is my honor to improve San Bernardino County veterans' quality of life by giving them the medical care they need and deserve when they need it. Our men and women in uniform placed their lives on the line for our nation, and they deserve health care unchained by bureaucracy and responsive now to their needs" said Hagman. "I will do everything in my power to ensure veterans receive the quality care they deserve in San Bernardino County."

In addition to approving Veterans Choice, the Board of Supervisors also established policies that effectively eliminated homelessness for veterans in the county last year. A total of 401 San Bernardino County veterans were identified as homeless, and a County government led advisory group of community and private partners found housing for all of them by the end of 2015. These 401 veterans had their housing issues resolved, along with 100 additional veterans who either became homeless or moved into the County after the count was completed.

"I'm focused on solving problems as your Supervisor and housing homeless veterans have been one of my first priorities." commented Hagman. U.S. Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert McDonald met with the Board yesterday to praise their success as a model of what can be done in housing homeless veterans.

The Board of Supervisors applied existing resources to find housing for all the homeless veterans, but this time changed the focus on how resources would be applied. For instance, some landlords were hesitant to rent to homeless veterans because of other costs, but the Board tapped into one-time general fund resources to cover security deposits and any other costs to help landlords feel secure in leasing to them.

Supervisor Curt Hagman has represented the Fourth Supervisorial District since December 2014. Prior to his election as County Supervisor, Curt Hagman served as a State Assemblyman for three terms. He is married to Grace and has two children, Jonathan and Elizabeth. In addition to his public service, Curt is also a small business owner and a member of the California State Military Reserve.

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